

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT**INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT**

(PCT Article 18 and Rules 43 and 44)

Applicant's or agent's file reference IP17152	FOR FURTHER ACTION see Form PCT/ISA/220 as well as, where applicable, item 5 below.	
International application No. PCT/IB2004/000884	International filing date (day/month/year) 28/01/2004	(Earliest) Priority Date (day/month/year) 28/01/2003
Applicant FAUS GROUP		
<p>This International Search Report has been prepared by this International Searching Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 18. A copy is being transmitted to the International Bureau.</p> <p>This International Search Report consists of a total of 8 sheets.</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> It is also accompanied by a copy of each prior art document cited in this report.</p>		
<p>1. Basis of the report</p> <p>a. With regard to the language, the international search was carried out on the basis of the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> The international search was carried out on the basis of a translation of the international application furnished to this Authority (Rule 23.1(b)).</p> <p>b. <input type="checkbox"/> With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application, see Box No. I.</p> <p>2. <input type="checkbox"/> Certain claims were found unsearchable (See Box II).</p> <p>3. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unity of invention is lacking (see Box III).</p> <p>4. With regard to the title,</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> the text has been established by this Authority to read as follows: FLOORING PLANKS HAVING SUB-PANELS WITH COMPLEMENTARY EDGE PATTERNS</p> <p>5. With regard to the abstract,</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> the text has been established, according to Rule 38.2(b), by this Authority as it appears in Box No. IV. The applicant may, within one month from the date of mailing of this International search report, submit comments to this Authority.</p> <p>6. With regard to the drawings,</p> <p>a. the figure of the drawings to be published with the abstract is Figure No. 15a</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> as suggested by the applicant.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> as selected by this Authority, because the applicant failed to suggest a figure.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> as selected by this Authority, because this figure better characterizes the invention.</p> <p>b. <input type="checkbox"/> none of the figures is to be published with the abstract.</p>		

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/IB2004/000884

Box II Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of Item 2 of first sheet)

This International Search Report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(e) for the following reasons:

1. Claims Nos.: because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:

2. Claims Nos.: because they relate to parts of the International Application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful International Search can be carried out, specifically:

3. Claims Nos.: because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 8.4(a).

Box III Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of Item 3 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

see additional sheet

1. As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers all searchable claims.

2. As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.

3. As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:

4. No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this International Search Report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

Remark on Protest:

The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.
 No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

International Application No. PCT/ IB2004/000884

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 218

This International Searching Authority found multiple (groups of) inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. claims: 1-43

Flooring planks having decorative patterns

2. claims: 44-47

Floor tiles having non-coplanar upper surfaces

Best Available Copy

8.JUL.2005 10:23

EPO-MÜNCHEN
TYPE INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

NR. 805 S. 14/18

International Application No
PCT/EP2004/000884

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC 7 B44C5/04 B44F9/02 E04F15/10

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 7 B44C B44F E04F

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, WPI Data

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category	Character of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	WO 03/006232 A (FAUS GROUP, INC.) 23 January 2003 (2003-01-23) see abstract page 1, line 1 - page 10, last line ; figures 1-3	1-43
Y	GB 2 345 269 A (LATCHWELL DEVELOPMENTS LIMITED) 5 July 2000 (2000-07-05) see abstract page 4, line 1 - page 5, last line ; figures 1,2	1-43
Y	US 6 401 415 B1 (EUGENIO CRUZ GARCIA) 11 June 2002 (2002-06-11) cited in the application the whole document	3,5,7,10
		-/-

 Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C. Patent family members are listed in annex.

* Special categories of cited documents :

- *A* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- *E* earlier document but published on or after the International filing date
- *L* document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reasons (as specified)
- *O* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- *P* document published prior to the International filing date but later than the priority date claimed

- *T* later document published after the International filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
- *R* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
- *M* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.
- *D* document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual compilation of the international search

Date of mailing of the international search report

10 May 2005

30.06.2005

Name and mailing address of the ISA
 European Patent Office, P.O. 5018 Patenttaan 2
 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk
 Tel: (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 cpo nl
 Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

Authorized officer

Greiner, E

C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	DE 199 01 377 A (CORONET-WERKE GMBH) 20 July 2000 (2000-07-20) the whole document -----	1-43
A	US 2002/014047 A1 (BERNARD PAUL JOSEPH THIERS) 7 February 2002 (2002-02-07) the whole document -----	1-43
A	US 5 295 341 A (MATSUJI KAJIWARA) 22 March 1994 (1994-03-22) cited in the application the whole document -----	1-43
A	DE 200 68 837 U (MROCHEN JOACHIM) 17 August 2000 (2000-08-17) the whole document -----	1-43
X	US 2 108 226 A (W. S. JOHNSTON) 15 February 1938 (1938-02-15) the whole document -----	44-47
X	US 4 131 705 A (EUGENE J. KUBINSKY) 26 December 1978 (1978-12-26) see abstract column 1, line 4 - column 3, line 12; figure 1 -----	44-47

Best Available Copy

8.JUL.2005 10:23

EPA MÜNCHEN
INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

NR. 805 S. 16/18

International Application No.

PCT/2004/000884

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date		Patent family member(s)		Publication date
WO 03006232	A	23-01-2003		US 2803010427 A1 BR 0211326 A CA 2453462 A1 CN 1541158 A DE 20220853 U1 EP 1417091 A1 JP 2004534672 T WO 03006232 A1 US 2003167717 A1 US 2004016501 A1		16-01-2003 16-11-2004 23-01-2003 27-10-2004 29-04-2004 12-05-2004 18-11-2004 23-01-2003 11-09-2003 29-01-2004
GB 2345269	A	05-07-2000		AU 5635799 A WO 0014360 A1		27-03-2000 16-03-2000
US 6401415	B1	11-06-2002		ES 2168045 A1 AU 1561200 A BR 9917560 A CA 2398174 A1 CN 1376230 A DE 29924311 U1 EP 1229183 A1 WO 0133011 A1 JP 2003514148 T US 2002110669 A1 US 2004144051 A1		16-05-2002 14-05-2001 06-08-2002 16-05-2001 23-10-2002 12-09-2002 07-08-2002 10-05-2001 15-04-2003 15-08-2002 29-07-2004
DE 19901377	A	20-07-2000		DE 19901377 A1		29-07-2000
US 2002014047	A1	07-02-2002		BE 1013553 A3 AT 6494 U1 AU 2819301 A AU 6571201 A WO 0196688 A1 WO 0196689 A1 BG 187380 A BR 0111566 A CA 2410206 A1 CA 2410209 A1 CN 1436267 A CN 1436268 A CZ 20024068 A3 DE 01984017 T1 DE 20121663 U1 EP 1290290 A1 EP 1290291 A1 ES 2226241 T1 HU 0301780 A2 JP 2004502890 T NO 20025970 A NZ 522893 A PL 359970 A1 RU 2239031 C2 SI 20989 A SK 17382002 A3 US 2003159385 A1 US 2002056245 A1 US 2005016699 A1 US 2005025934 A1		05-03-2002 25-11-2003 24-12-2001 24-12-2001 20-12-2001 20-12-2001 30-06-2003 08-07-2003 20-12-2001 20-12-2001 13-08-2003 13-08-2003 18-06-2003 15-07-2004 27-02-2003 12-03-2003 12-03-2003 16-12-2004 28-08-2003 29-01-2004 10-02-2003 27-02-2004 06-09-2004 27-10-2004 28-02-2003 08-06-2004 28-08-2003 16-05-2002 27-01-2005 03-02-2005

Best Available Copy

8.JUL.2005 10:24

EPA MÜNCHEN
Best Available Copy
SEARCH REPORT
Information on patent family members

NR. 825 S. 17/18

International Application No

PCT/EP2004/000884

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date		Patent family member(s)	Publication date
US 2002014047 A1		ZA	200209952 A	28-10-2003
US 5295341 A	22-03-1994	WO	9401628 A2	28-01-1994
DE 20008837 U	17-08-2000	DE	20008837 U1	17-08-2000
US 2108226 A	15-02-1938	NONE		
US 4131705 A	26-12-1978	CA	1105365 A1	21-07-1981

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.	
PCT/IB2004/000884	

Box No. IV Text of the abstract (Continuation of item 5 of the first sheet)

Laminated flooring planks (60) include decorative motifs (68) mechanically embossed-in-registration surface textures, recessed perimeters (P) and locking mechanisms (64). Adjacent planks substantially aligned allow embossed-in-registration patterns to be substantially continuous across adjacent flooring panels. The recessed perimeter prevents the edges of the flooring panel from prematurely wearing. Individual planks within the flooring system may comprise at least one partial sub-panel having a decorative motif and/or embossed surface texture (i.e., pattern) that is complementary with a pattern of a neighboring partial sub-panel or plank. Each plank may include edge patterns adjacent a portion of an edge of the plank and at least one bulk pattern adjacent the edge patterns. Edge patterns within a plank and of planks within a flooring system are substantially identical to each other. Bulk patterns form a substantially continuous pattern within an individual plank when adjacent a plank.